

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with B. J. Sadoff on November 10, 2009.

**Claims filed 10/16/2009 have been entered** and amended as follows:

Claims 4-6 have been canceled.

The following claims have been added:

Claim 17. The method of claim 3 or claim 7, wherein the polyaromatic compound is chosen from naphthalene, benzophenone, fluorenone and anthraquinone.

Claim 18. The method of claim 3 or claim 7, wherein the polar organic solvent is sulfolane, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidone or N-methylformamide.

Claim 19. The method of claim 3 or claim 7, wherein the carbon nanotubes contain boron atoms in place of carbon atoms.

### ***Allowable Subject Matters***

2. **Claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 17-19 have been found to be allowable over the prior art of record.**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are novel over the closest prior art US 5,695,734 to Ikazaki et al. Applicant's arguments, see pages 4-6, filed 10/16/2009, with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9, 11, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Based upon a reconsideration of the applied art and the claims in view of those arguments, the rejection has been withdrawn. Specific note is made of the method of dissolving reduced carbon nanotubes through the use of a polar organic solvent, particularly those set forth in allowable claim 5. Therefore, the indicated claims are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HENG M. CHAN whose telephone number is (571)270-5859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 8:00 am EST to 5:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on (571)272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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